



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 12 2003

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

B-19J

E.B. Fitzpatrick III, District Ranger  
Eagle River-Florence Ranger District  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
HC 1 Box 83  
Florence, WI 54121

**Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Northwest Howell Project on the  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Northwest Howell Project on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin.

USFS has selected Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative to address the purpose and need in the project area. Needs include diversifying tree species and age groups within forest stands, changing species dominance patterns in some river corridors, providing timber products for commercial use, and changing the transportation system within the forest boundaries. The project is consistent with the existing Management Plan prepared for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The project has not changed significantly from the Draft EIS, which we rated "LO- Lack of Objections," indicating we did not identify any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the preferred alternative. Consequently, we have no further comments on the project or the Record of Decision. Thank you for considering our comments regarding a multi-agency deer herd management effort and for correcting an error in the "Adverse Effects" section.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of our comments, please contact Anna Miller of my staff at (312) 886-7060.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink is located at the bottom of the page, below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is cursive and appears to be "Anna Miller".